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NEWS RELEASE

Governor Minner & DEDO Host BRAC Business Conference *Del. Businesses Network with Country's Largest Defense Contractors*

DOVER, Del. (October 31, 2008) – Governor Ruth Ann Minner and the Delaware Economic Development Office hosted a Base Realignment and Closure Business Conference today at the University of Delaware's Clayton Hall in Newark. Delaware's Small Business Development Center, University of Delaware, City of Wilmington Economic Development Office, and New Castle County Economic Development Office co-hosted the event.

The conference was developed in response to the forthcoming closure of Ft. Monmouth, N.J., as part of the federal BRAC initiative, and subsequent movement of operations to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. The conference was designed for Delaware businesses interested in becoming contractors or subcontractors with Aberdeen Proving Ground or APG's large private defense contractors. With nearly 300 attendees, the conference served as an excellent door opener for potential expansion for businesses that have the capability to serve APG or its contractors, but are not currently aware of the needs or requirements. The conference also served companies considering relocating their business to Delaware to be closer to APG.

"BRAC represents an opportunity to attract leading edge defense technology firms to the state of Delaware that recognize our competitive advantage," said Governor Ruth Ann Minner. "BRAC is also an opportunity to support and expand our existing small businesses – the backbone of our economy."

BRAC will bring an estimated \$14 billion in contracting opportunities to the region.

The keynote luncheon speaker was Tracey Pinson, Director of Small Business Programs for the U.S. Army. Additional presenters included Giselle Whitfield, Program Manager Office of Small Business Programs, Army Material Command; Marcia Easton, Chief, Small Business Programs Office, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Life Cycle, Management Command, Fort Monmouth, N.J.; Pamela Monroe, Associate Director, Army Contracting Agency, Contracting Center of Excellence; John O'Brien, Assistant Director, Office of Small Business Programs, U.S. Army Research Development

and Engineering Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. and Gary Schilling, Program Manager Aberdeen Proving Ground, Integrated Program Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Also attending the conference were some of the largest defense contractors serving Ft. Monmouth/APG, including Northrop Grumman, CACI, Raytheon, Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics-IT. The conference featured two panel discussions with a period for questions and answers, comprised of Delaware-based government contractors and selected major prime contractors.

About DEDO:

The Delaware Economic Development Office is an executive state of Delaware agency responsible for attracting new investors and businesses to the state, promoting the expansion of existing industry, assisting small and minority-owned businesses, promoting and developing tourism and creating new and improved employment opportunities for all citizens of the State. Visit: www.dedo.delaware.gov.

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